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**McARDLE LABORATORY**  
**FOR CANCER RESEARCH**

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May 7, 1980

Dr. Joshua Lederberg, President  
The Rockefeller University  
New York, NY 10021

Dear Josh:

Thank you for sending to me the obituary of E. L. Tatum. To answer your footnote 2, I could supply you with a short anecdotal comment by J. Winge, with whom I was working at the Carlsberg Laboratory in 1948/49. When I decided to emigrate to the USA and asked Winge whose lab he would recommend to me, he unhesitatingly specified the two "best American laboratories" in microbial genetics. "If you want to work with an old-timer" - he said - "I will write to M. Demerec in Cold Spring Harbor. But since biochemistry is now of utmost importance in genetics, I would rather write a letter of recommendation to a young but brilliant man, whose name is Tatum". Winge wrote to Tatum, but he was just moving from Yale to Stanford. So ultimately I landed in Cold Spring Harbor.

Maybe this assessment of Tatum in 1948/49 by one of the leading European geneticists will be of interest to you.

With the warmest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Wacław Szybalski  
Professor of Oncology

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